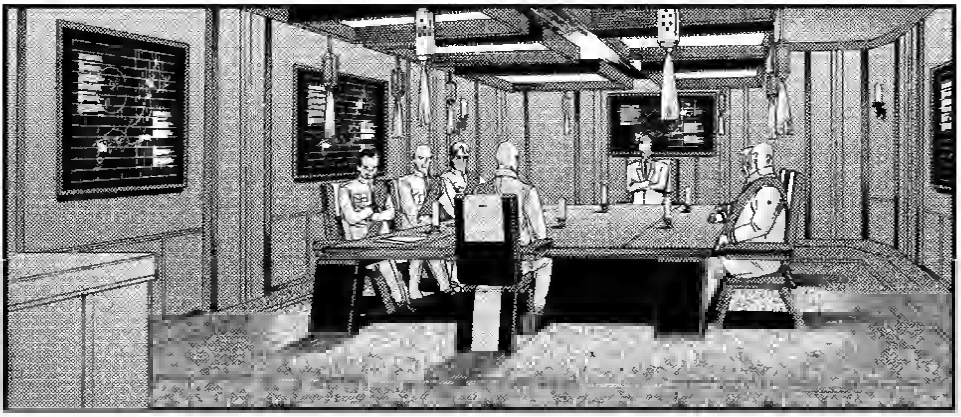
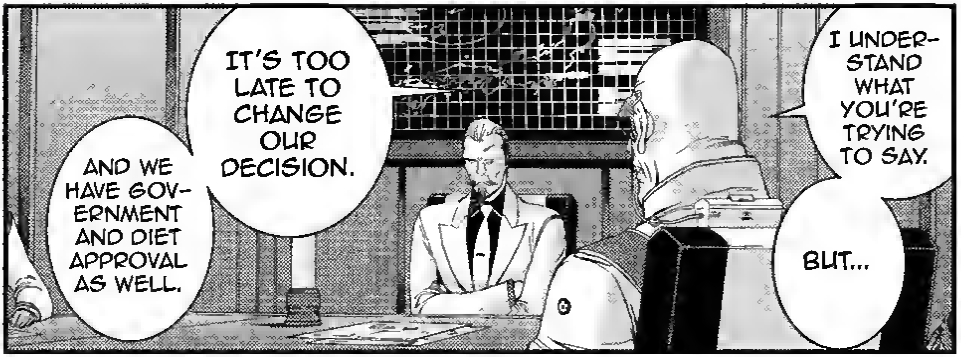
KITA-SAN...
THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.
BUT THE 401 HASN'T LEFT PORT YET.
THERE'S STILL TIME.
THE DECIDING FACTOR FOR THE NAVY...
...WAS THE FACT THAT A BRIDGE EXISTS ON THE 401.
BUT THAT'S NOT A SUFFICIENT REASON.
REGARD-LESS, IT REMAINS TRUE.

THIS IS SOMETHING UNTHINK-ABLE...
...ON A NORMAL FOG SHIP, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
THE 401 CONTAINS FACILITIES TO ALLOW HUMAN HABITA-TION...
...EQUIPMENT TO CONTROL IT, AND A BRIDGE.
OBVIOUSLY...
SOME-ONE'S SEEN THE INSIDE OF A FOG VESSEL BESIDES THE 401?
SO YOU'RE SAYING...
EVERY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION IN EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS CONFIRMED THIS.
...YOU WOULD NEVER EXPECT THE FOG FLEET TO HAVE FACILITIES TO ALLOW HUMANS TO BOARD THEM.

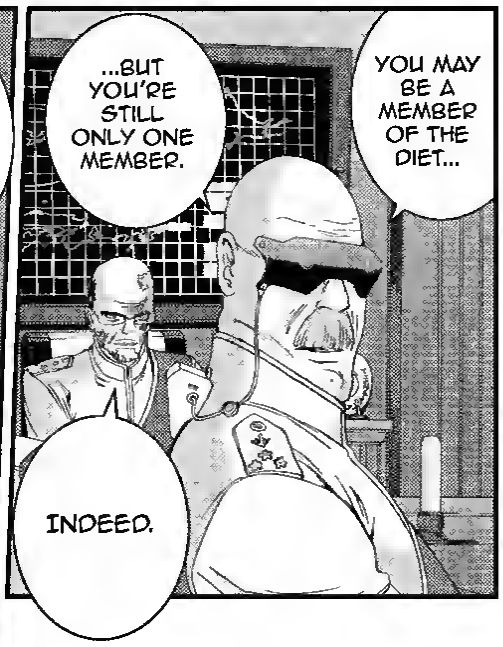
...IS THAT NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S "OBVIOUS" ABOUT THE FOG AT ALL.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY HERE...
WE FOUND SOMETHING WE DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE.
AND WE WERE ABLE TO PILOT THE 401 WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE ON TWO SHAKEDOWN CRUISES.
BUT KITA-SAN, THAT'S WHY IT'S WORTH A TRY, ISN'T IT?
THEY WERE 45 MINUTES LONG AND WITHIN SIGHT OF LAND, AND YOU'RE CALLING THEM SHAKEDOWN CRUISES?
AND NOW THIS IS A MESSAGE? THAT'S JUST A GUESS WITH NO BASIS AT ALL.
SHAKE-DOWN CRUISES?
IS THIS SOME TYPE OF MES-SAGE?

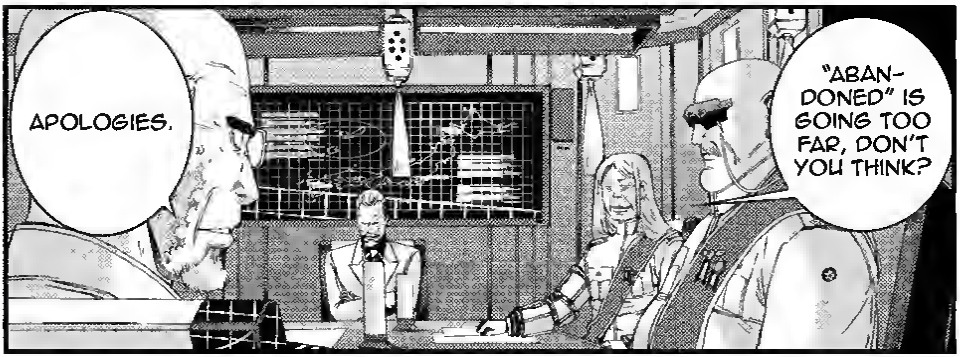
A MESSAGE FROM WHOM, THEN?
IF GUESSES ARE ALL YOU'VE GOT...
...THEN WHAT IF I SAY THAT I GUESS IT'S A TRAP?
WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE.
THE 401 IS A FOG SHIP.
WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW IT WORKS...
...SO IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS TO SEND...
Shouzou Chihaya
...ONE OF OUR NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT VIPS OUT ON IT.

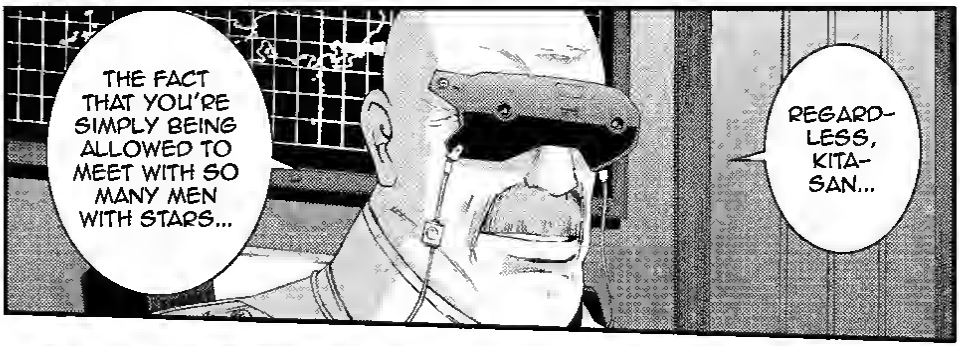


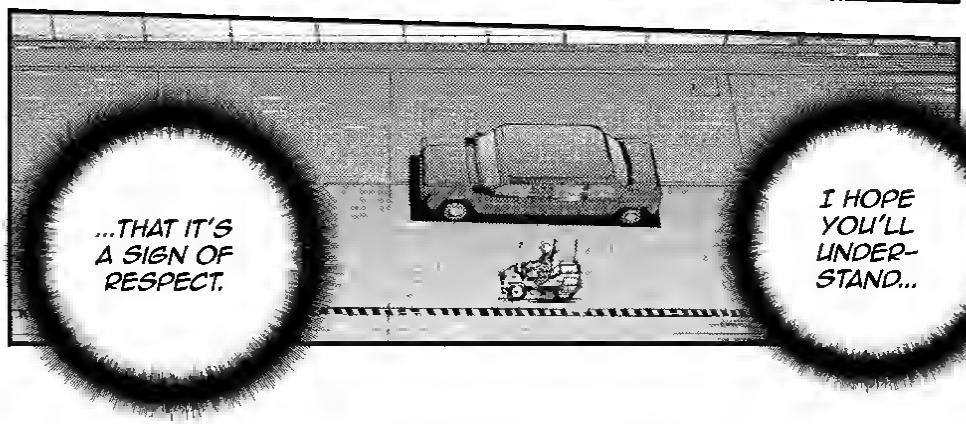

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.
BUT...
IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE OUR DECISION.
AND WE HAVE GOVERNMENT AND DIET APPROVAL AS WELL.

KITA-SAN, WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN...
...HOW YOU ABANDONED THE NAVY FOR THE ARMY.


YOU MAY BE A MEMBER OF THE DIET...
...BUT YOU'RE STILL ONLY ONE MEMBER.
INDEED.


APOLOGIES.
"ABAN-
DONED" IS
GOING TOO
FAR, DON'T
YOU THINK?


THE FACT
THAT YOU'RE
SIMPLY BEING
ALLOWED TO
MEET WITH SO
MANY MEN
WITH STARS...
REGARD-
LESS,
KITA-
SAN...


...THAT IT'S
A SIGN OF
RESPECT.
I HOPE
YOU'LL
UNDER-
STAND...

...WE IN THE NAVY WERE RATHER RUDE TO YOU YESTERDAY.
I'M TOLD...

MY APOLO-GIES.

THIS WHOLE COUN-TRY...
...IS FRUS-TRATED.

EVERY-ONE'S FRUS-TRATED.
NO, IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ON OUR OWN.
ALL WE CAN DO IS KNEEL BEFORE A VAST, UNREASONABLE POWER, AND BE FRUSTRATED.
PEOPLE HAVE REALLY CHANGED.
...

PERHAPS SO.
YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM.

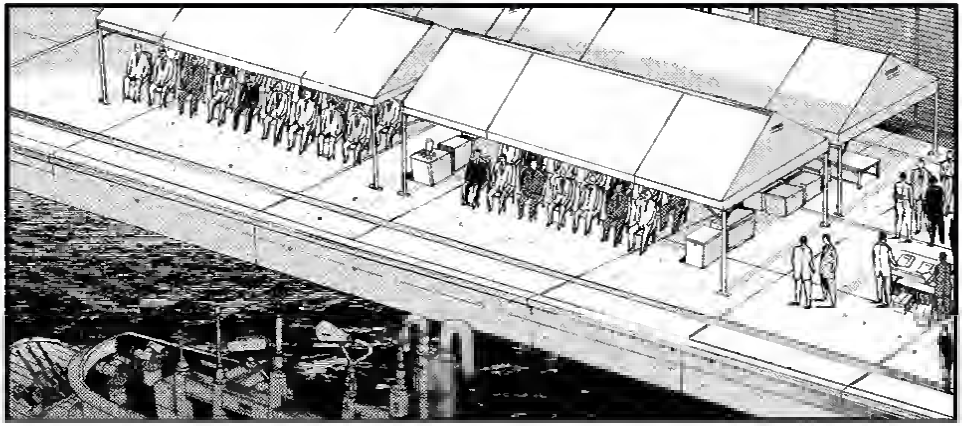
...BUT YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING.
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER END UP LIKE THAT...

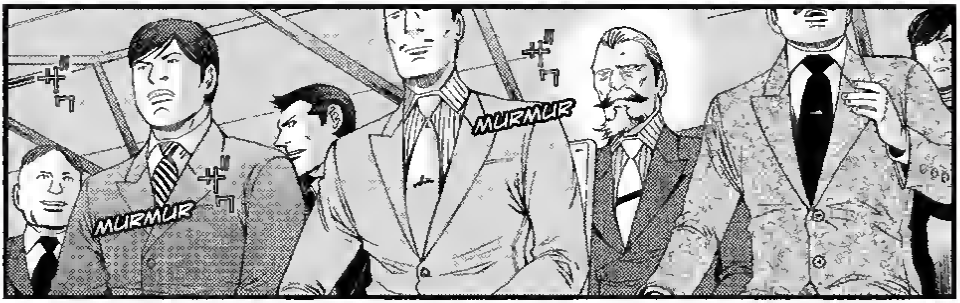
I'VE GOTTEN CLOSE TO THE LEVERS OF POWER...
...BUT I'VE NEVER ACCOM-PLISHED ANYTHING.
I'M NOT AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MAN.
KITA-SAN, YOU'RE NOT...
IF I COULDN'T STOP THIS VOYAGE, I SHOULD'VE VOLUNTEERED TO GO MYSELF.
IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO STRUGGLE AGAINST IT.
...I LACK YOUR CAPA-BILITIES?
YOU'RE SAYING...
KITA-SAN... YOU HAVE YOUR OWN ROLE TO PLAY.

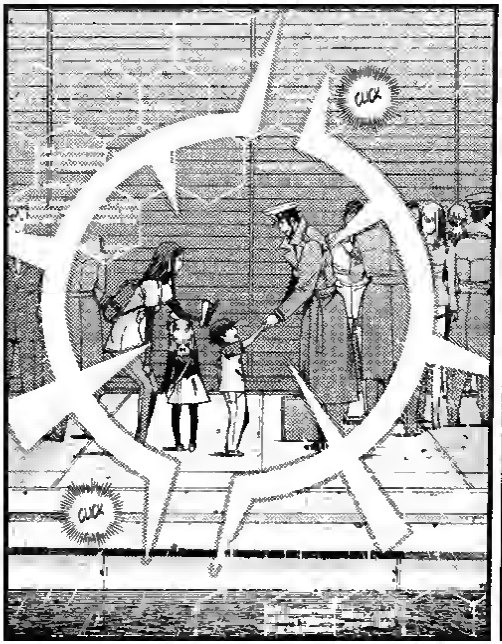
I LACK YOUR POWER.
AND I...
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE AN ASS-HOLE, YOU KNOW THAT?
...
I SEE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE RIDE.
WE'RE HERE...

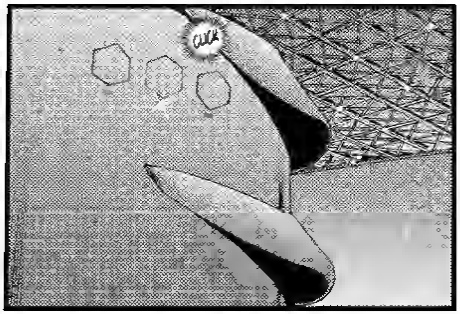
...BECOMES JUST A SINGLE DROP IN A GREAT RIVER.
I HOPE THAT THIS VOYAGE...
NO, IT WAS AN HONOR TO SEE YOU TO THE CEREMONY.
IT'S MADE ME VERY HAPPY.
CHIHAYA...
FAIR SAILING.

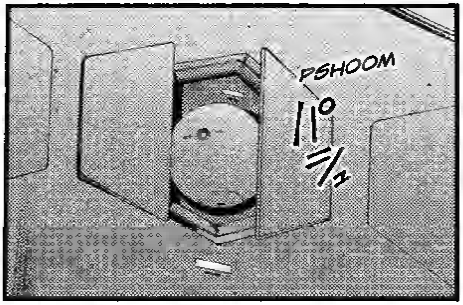
...ADMIRAL.
THANK YOU...
...
CLICK
ADMIRAL...
...HUH?



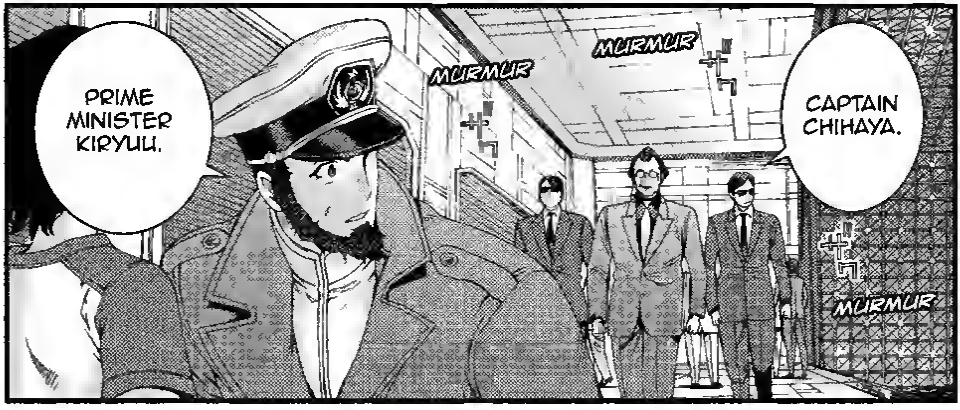

MURMUR
MURMUR


CLICK
CLICK


CLICK


PSHOOM

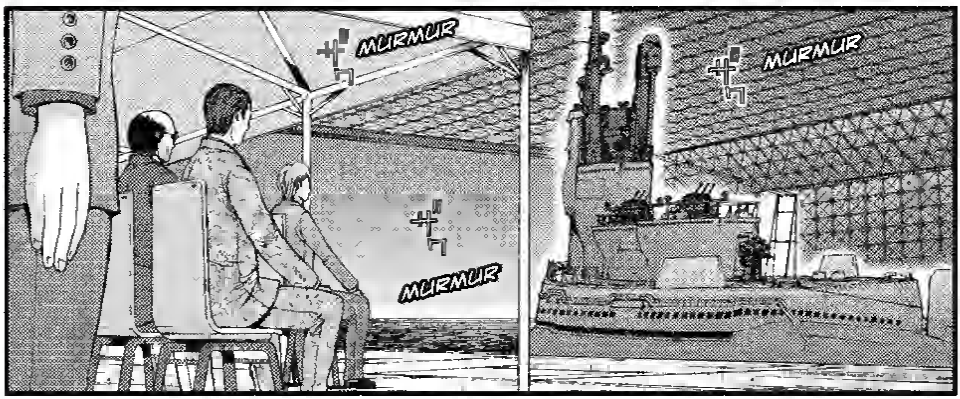
CLICK
CLICK


PRIME MINISTER KIRYUU.
MURMUR
MURMUR
CAPTAIN CHIHAYA.
MURMUR

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR FAMILY TIME.
THERE WAS SOME-THING I WANTED TO GIVE YOU.

THANK YOU, SIR.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY TO YOU AND YOUR CREW.
...I...
...OUR SITUATION WILL CHANGE DRASTICALLY.
IF YOU CAN MAKE IT ACROSS THE OCEAN, EVEN ALONE...
BUT THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT YOU AND THE 401 ARE THIS NATION'S ONLY HOPE.
IF YOU CAN MAKE IT TO AMERICA, GIVE IT TO HIM PERSONALLY.
WHAT I WANT TO GIVE YOU IS THIS LETTER OF FRIENDSHIP TO THE PRESIDENT.
I'M WELL AWARE...
...

I'LL SEE YOU AT THE CEREMONY.
...ALL RIGHT.
OF COURSE.
DATA MEMORY


MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

CLICK
WE'RE READY TO LEAVE PORT.
CAPTAIN...

ATTENTION ALL CREW, THIS IS CAPTAIN CHIHAYA SPEAKING.
THIS VESSEL WILL NOW SAIL TO AMERICA'S LARGEST PORT, SAN DIEGO.
WITH YOUR SKILLS, THIS WILL NOT BE A DIFFICULT VOYAGE.
GULP

THE HOTTEST WOMEN ON THE WEST COAST...
...ARE WAITING FOR YOU IN SAN DIEGO!
WE'RE LEAVING PORT!
READY TO LEAVE PORT!

BOTH ENGINES TO MINIMUM SPEED!
I-401, LEAVING PORT!
ズォォ
SHWOOOOM
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WHOOOM
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WHOOOM
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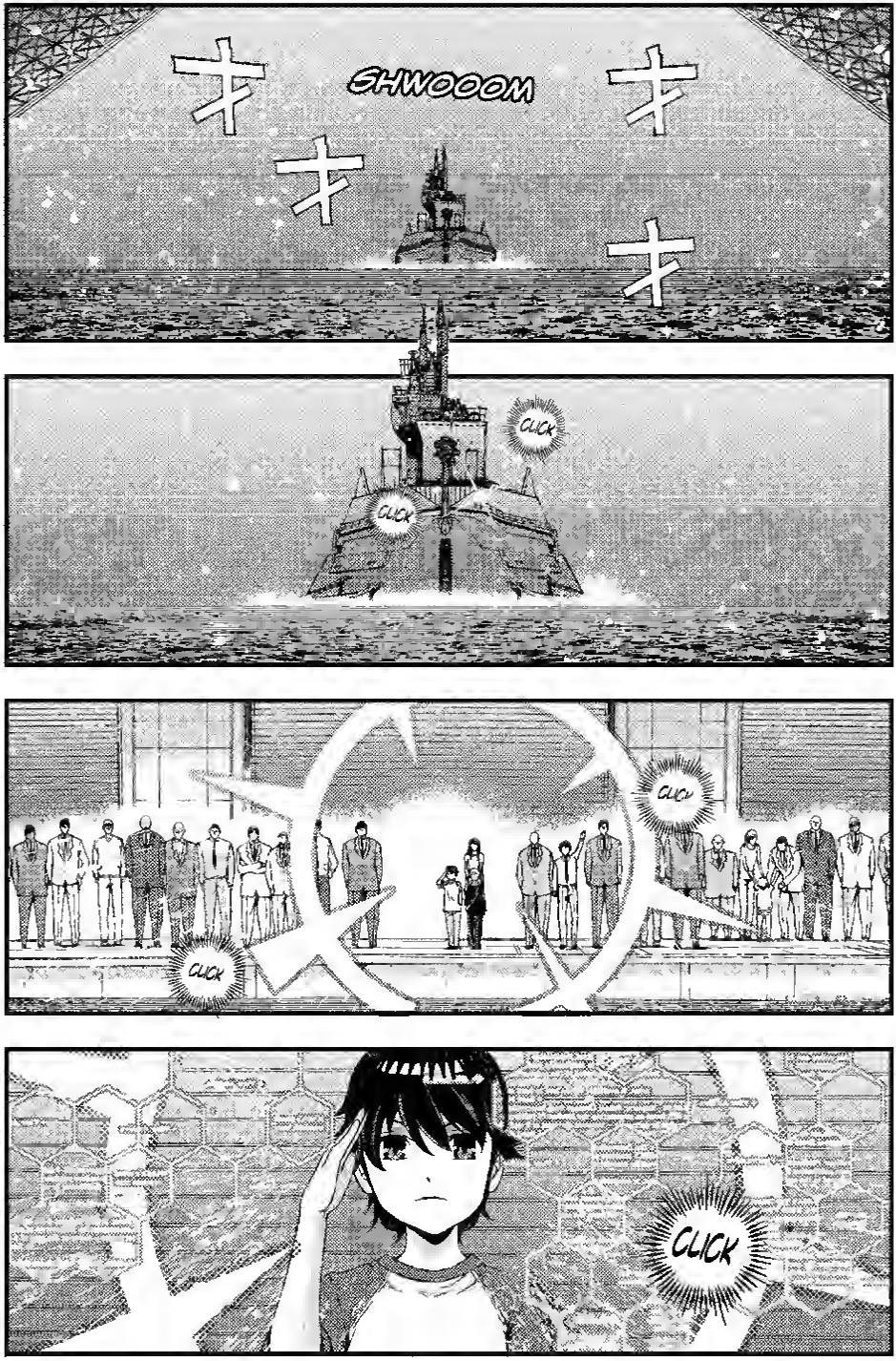
SHWOOOM
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

BIRD OF PREY
...
MAY IT BE A SINGLE DROP...
...IN A GREAT RIVER